

Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of March 28, 2005

1. New Montgomery College VP & Provost (Ward 1): Montgomery College has announced that a new Vice President and Provost for the Takoma Park Campus has been appointed. The College has chosen Dr. Brad Stewart, who has most recently been the Campus Executive Officer and Dean at the University of Wisconsin at Waukesha. Interim VP/Provost Clarice Somersall will return to Montgomery College Central Administration in Rockville. (Community & Government Liaison)
2. SHA Road & Safety Improvements: State Highway officials have notified the City of Takoma Park that many projects that they had wanted to do in the Takoma Park area were not funded. Statewide, over half of the list of these smaller road and safety improvements recommended by SHA staff were not funded this year. City staff will be determining exactly which requested elements were not approved and see if other SHA funds could pick up the most critical improvements. One particularly disturbing item is the postponement of resurfacing New Hampshire Avenue from Erskine Street to Eastern Avenue. This segment has had a high level of vehicular accidents and many fatalities over the years, in large part due to a poor road surface. (Community & Government Liaison)
3. Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1): Construction on Laurel Avenue is scheduled to begin on April 4. Businesses have been mailed information regarding the upcoming project. The Farmer's Market is to be relocated to the Bank of America parking lot and is proposed to be relocated to Willow Avenue. Residents along the 7100 block of Willow received notification and have been asked to work with staff to address any possible issues. Staff will be working with the shops on Laurel and the Farmer's Market so that customers are aware that both will remain open for business during construction. (Housing and Community Development)
4. Municipal Electrical Aggregation: The previously defeated legislation that would allow municipalities to aggregate electrical energy on behalf of their citizens has been resurrected in the State Legislature by Senator Leo Green. Senator Green was able to amend House Bill 215 related to electric restructuring. Since the bill had already passed the House without the amendment, there will be a discussion next week about whether or not to appoint a conference committee to reconcile the two versions. (Community & Government Liaison)
5. Job Opportunities (City-Wide): Applicants are being sought for current openings in Communications Dispatch. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, high school graduate or GED; U.S. citizenship is not required and all training is provided. Base salary is \$16.56/hour. The entrance exam for Dispatchers will be April 17 and for Police Officer applicants April 16. For details on requirements and benefits for each position, contact Recruiting at 301/891-7130. (Police)
6. C-SAFE Grant Application (Ward 6): This week the CSAFE staff submitted the grant application for FY06, requesting the same level of funding, \$82,402. (Police)
7. Injured Officers (Wards 1, 2 & 6): One officer sustained a serious knee injury during the Mar. 30 track and search for the suspect who assaulted an officer, fled by car and struck two vehicles on New Hampshire Ave. The officer was hurt during the foot track that followed the collisions. The officer assaulted initially was not hurt when struck by the suspect's car. An officer is scheduled for surgery following an injury sustained during a pursuit on Mar. 21, while seeking the suspect in an assault at Carroll and Laurel Avenue. The officer's hand was hurt when caught in a fence during the chase between Park and Willow Avenues. (Police)
8. Officers in Training: Three officers and Lt. Cipperly attended LGIT training on laws and liability related to police action in Mount Rainier. Capt. Coursey and three sergeants attended a three-day training on Incident Command/Unified Management in WMD/Terrorism events. Next week other supervisors will receive the same training, which utilizes principles applicable in any major emergency, including natural disasters. The course seeks to improve law enforcement's ability to identify tasks and effectively manage functions in an incident. Unified Command recognizes that primary responsibility for an emergency can change as the event develops and establishes systems for input from multiple services and evolution of the command. (Police)
9. Spring Break: The Outreach Division offered the annual Spring bling for Grades 6-12 this week, which is a series of trips for kids on Spring break. The group of 12 went to Jillians, the movies, Busch Gardens, bowling, skating, Kings Dominion, miniature golf and played lazer tag. (Recreation)
10. Collaborations with Montgomery College-TP and City of Takoma Park: A meeting was held on April 1, with Montgomery College representatives Clarice Somersall, Howard Stanley, and Shauvon Simmons and attended by Debra Haiduven and Matthew Corley of the Recreation Department. Various items were discussed to form collaborations with Montgomery College-TP and City of Takoma Park. The City staff described our plans for the new community center and identified ways the two agencies could collaborate. Another meeting has been scheduled for the end of April, where representatives of MC's Adult Ed., Student Services, Physical Education, Life Long Services for Seniors and Information Technology departments will discuss future plans with various City departments. (Recreation)
11. Friends of the Library: Twenty-five people attended the Friends of the Library annual meeting and Board election on March 22nd. in the Library. Following refreshments and music by Rick and Audrey Engdahl, candidates Ahmed Martinez, Kevin Sturtevant and Janet Williams were elected to at-large positions. Departing Board members were Gloria Cline-Smythe and George Taylor, who is moving out of the area. Jim Kuhn was elected to another term as Treasurer. The Friends gave nearly \$9000 to the Library this year in gifts, including four new public Internet workstations, a digital camera, modular shelving for children's readers, the Summer Quest summer reading program, and various storytellers and performances for Library audiences. (Library)

12. Book Donations: The Library is once again accepting books donations for the FTPML book sales. The next sale will probably held in Fall. (Library)

13. Noted Philosopher Chris Phillips: Mr. Phillips returns to the Library April 11 to entertain and challenge Library audiences of children and adults with his Socratic investigations. Chris is the author of "Socrates Café," "The Philosophers' Club" and most recently "Six Questions of Socrates" - all owned by the Library. He enjoys teaching philosophy to children. (Library)

14. Poem Contest: The deadline for submitting poems for the "Favorite Poem Evening" on April 21st. has been extended to April 15th. (Library)

15. A Writer in the House: Library staffer Gene Miller's article on opera singer Barbara Quintiliani appears in this month's "Washingtonian." (Library)